

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended)

A cutter for separating pre-determined quantities of food from a food block, said cutter comprising

(a) a body member with measurement marks on it, said measurement marks being spaced from one another in a first direction, and

(b) a cutting edge extending transversely to said first direction and being spaced from said measurement marks, in which said cutting edge has a length at least substantially equal to the width of said food block in the direction in which it is to be cut.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended)

~~A cutter as in Claim 1~~ A cutter for separating pre-determined quantities of food from a food block, said cutter comprising

(a) a body member with measurement marks on it, said measurement marks being spaced from one another in a first direction, and

(b) a cutting edge extending transversely to said first direction and being spaced from said measurement marks,
in which said body member has an opening extending near said

marks and in said first direction and positioned to allow at least a portion of said food block to be visible when said cutter is positioned atop said food block.

Claim 4 (original)

A cutter as in Claim 3 in which said body member has side edges and a central portion between said edges and said opening is an elongated slot positioned adjacent said central portion of said body member.

Claim 5 (original)

A cutter as in Claim 1 in which said body member has a plurality of sets of measurement marks, each for use in cutting food blocks of a different size.

Claim 6 (original)

A cutter as in Claim 5 in which said body member has two opposed broad surfaces, one of said sets being located on one of said surfaces, and another set being located on the other of said surfaces.

Claim 7 (original)

A cutter as in Claim 5 in which one of said sets is adapted to provide measurements for a butter block of one regional standard size, and the other of said sets is adapted to provide measurements for another regional standard butter block size.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

A cutter as in Claim 1 in which said body member is relatively wide, whereby said cutter can be used in the manner of a spatula. ~~for cutting solid food from a food block, said cutter comprising~~

~~(a) an elongated body member having a straight cutting edge, said elongated body member extending in one direction generally perpendicular to said cutting edge,~~

~~(b) said body member having a plurality of measurement marks spaced apart in said one direction, each mark indicating a quantity measurement in a space between said mark and said cutting edge,~~

~~(c) said cutting edge having a length at least substantially as great as the dimension of said food block across which it is to be cut.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended)

A method of separating a quantity of food from a food block, said method comprising

(a) selecting a cutter comprising a body member with measurement marks spaced from one another in one direction, and a cutting edge at one end, said cutting edge extending transversely with respect to said one direction and

having a length which is substantially equal to or greater than the width of the food block to be cut,

(b) positioning said body member to be substantially parallel to one surface of said food block and aligning one of said measurement marks with said food block, with said cutting edge positioned adjacent said surface of said food ~~body~~ block,

(c) pivoting said cutter about said cutting edge to a position in which said body member is transverse to said surface of said block, and

(d) thrusting said cutter onto said block to separate said quantity from said block.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

A method as in Claim 9 in which said measurement marks include a plurality of sets of marks, one set for each of a plurality of food block sizes, and including the step of selecting the set of marks to be ~~use~~ used for the food block to be cut.

Claim 11 (cancelled)